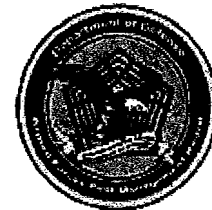




DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES PEST MANAGEMENT BOARD
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, FOREST GLEN SECTION
WASHINGTON, DC 20307-5001



August 13, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, ATTN: MR JAN REITMAN, DES-E,
8725 JOHN J. KINGMAN ROAD, FORT BELVOIR, VA 22060-6221

SUBJECT: Health Benefits of Uniforms Factory Treated with Permethrin

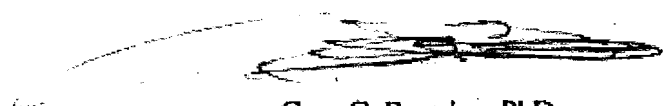
The Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) strongly supports the factory treatment method to permeate battle dress uniforms (BDUs) with the repellent permethrin. Permethrin is a safe, effective method that protects troops from diseases transmitted through the bite of infected insects.

The DoD has been using permethrin to treat BDUs since 1992. The current methods of application, IDA kits, 2-gallon sprayer, and aerosol, were originally developed as interim treatment methods until factory treatment could be brought on line.

The process of uniform treatment with permethrin has been extensively studied by the EPA. The EPA has approved the process for commercial use, and many sportsmen, hikers, and other individuals looking for protection against biting insects are now able to buy clothing with factory applied permethrin. The EPA approved the clothing for all ages, including children, again indicating the safety of the product.

In 1994 the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Toxicology (COT) released a comprehensive review supporting the use of permethrin to treat BDUs. The study concluded that "soldiers who wear permethrin treated uniforms are not likely to have adverse health effects." The COT reinforced this statement with a follow-up letter stating "the available data on toxicity of permethrin impregnated BDUs or working with permethrin impregnated fabric would not lead to adverse health effects in military personnel or garment workers." This study was concluded in 1994. To date there have been numerous studies reinforcing the COT's assessment: permethrin impregnated BDUs are safe and do not lead to adverse health effects.

The AFPMB requests DLA include the factory treatment method in all future procurement contracts for combat uniforms. Should you have questions, my POC for this issue is MAJ Dwight Rickard, DSN 236-7476, e-mail dwight.rickard@osd.mil.



Gary C. Breeden, PhD
CAPT, US Navy
Director